

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **GOV. EASLEY VISITS FLOOD STRICKEN CABARRUS COUNTY** *Damage Assessment Teams Gauge Eligibility for State or Federal Aid*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today met with emergency response officials in Cabarrus County, an area that suffered some of the worst damage from flooding caused by heavy rain from the remnants of Tropical Storm Fay. As much as 14 inches of rain fell in parts of western and piedmont North Carolina Tuesday and Wednesday, with 11 inches recorded at the Concord Regional Airport.

“I want to assure our citizens and these communities that the state is going to do everything we can to make them whole,” said Easley. “I appreciate the fast response of the emergency personnel across the state who were so well coordinated. Because they were prepared, lives were saved.”

There were 18 swift water rescues in Cabarrus County during the storm. The swift water rescue personnel came from four fire departments: Harrisburg, Midland, Allen and Flows Store. Kannapolis firefighters also rescued 51 residents and staff of the Kannapolis Village Longterm Care home. Shelters were opened in both counties for evacuees.

Preliminary indications from Cabarrus County are that 30 to 40 homes in Harrisburg and about a dozen in Concord have suffered damages from the flooding. Mecklenburg County officials estimate as many as 100 homes with flood damage. The American Red Cross is helping residents who cannot go back to their homes find alternate housing.

On Wednesday, Easley directed state damage assessment teams to Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties. The teams will work with local officials to determine if the homes and businesses that were affected have insurance to cover the repairs. In order to be eligible for either federal or state disaster aid or Small Business Administration loans, a county must have a minimum of 25 homes or businesses with greater than 40 percent uninsured damages. Damage assessment teams will begin their work Friday and could have data compiled by early next week.

State Department of Transportation crews worked throughout the state during the storm to clear roads of fallen debris and mudslides. Hundreds of roads were covered by flood waters Wednesday. Today, DOT reports about two dozen roads or low-water bridges are still closed in Anson, Ashe, Cabarrus, Davidson, Mecklenburg, Rowan and Sampson counties.

Easley reminded residents not to drive into flood waters and asked them to pay attention to traffic barriers and not try to drive around them.

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